

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterium ~~which is~~ resistant to attack by at least one bacteriophage ~~and which comprise, said bacterium comprising a~~ modification of an ϕ Sfi21 prophage, wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophage in the bacterium the bacterial chromosome sufficient to disrupt expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The bacterium according to claim 1 which is a strain of *S. thermophilus* selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The bacterium according to claim 1 wherein the bacterial chromosome is modified by addition of DNA in ORF 90.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The bacterium according to claim 3 wherein the addition of DNA comprises a bacterial insertion sequence of bases of (IS) S1 ~~or a functional equivalent thereof.~~

Claim 5-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): The bacterium according to claim ~~1-35~~ 1-35 wherein the modification comprises ~~a deletion of at least part of ORF 1560 of the ϕ Sfi21 prophage.~~

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A composition comprising:
a *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain, ~~which has been mutated~~ including in a
 ~~ϕ Sfi21 prophage genome such that phage propagation within the bacterium is substantially~~
~~prevented, wherein the mutation comprises deletion of~~ modification of the bacterial chromosome
~~sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophagea chorismate mutase chain A gene; and~~
at least one component chosen from the group consisting of a carrier, adjuvant and
diluent.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A starter culture comprising a *Streptococcus*
thermophilus bacterial strain, ~~which has been mutated~~ including in a ~~ϕ Sfi21 prophage genome~~
~~such that phage propagation within the bacterium is substantially prevented, wherein the~~
~~mutation comprises deletion of~~ modification of the bacterial chromosome ~~sufficient DNA to~~
~~disrupt expression of the prophagea chorismate mutase chain A gene.~~

Claim 11-17 (canceled).

Claim 18 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 9 wherein the
strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The composition according to claim 9 wherein the
bacterial chromosome is modified by addition of DNA in ORF 90.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 37 wherein the
 ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of at least part of ORF 1560.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A milk product comprising a *Streptococcus*
thermophilus bacterial strain, ~~which has been mutated~~ including in a ~~ϕ Sfi21 prophage genome~~
~~such that phage propagation within the bacterium is substantially prevented, wherein the~~
~~mutation comprises deletion of~~ modification of the bacterial chromosome ~~sufficient DNA to~~
~~disrupt expression of the prophagea chorismate mutase chain A gene.~~

Claim 22 (previously presented): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein the strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein the bacterial chromosome is modified by addition of DNA in ORF 90.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The starter culture according to claim ~~10~~39 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of at least part of ORF 1560.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The milk product according to claim 21 wherein the strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The milk product according to claim 21 wherein the bacterial chromosome is modified by addition of DNA in ORF 90.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The milk product according to claim ~~21~~41 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of at least part of ORF 1560.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacterial strain, wherein ~~said strain is mutated in~~ at least one of the bacterial chromosome or in the ϕ Sfi21 phage genome of said strain is modified such that phage replication within the bacterium is prevented, wherein the ~~bacterial chromosome comprises~~ modification is selected from the group consisting of addition of DNA to the bacterial chromosome in ORF 90 at a site which disrupts expression of a chorismate mutase chain A gene ~~and/or disrupts expression of ORF394, or wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by~~ and deletion of sufficient DNA ~~to disrupt expression of the prophage, wherein the mutation comprises a deletion to disrupt expression of~~ from at least part of ORF 1560 of the ϕ Sfi21 prophage to disrupt expression of said prophage.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The *S. thermophilus* bacterial strain according to claim 28, wherein the bacterial strain of *S. thermophilus* is selected from the group consisting of Sfi1 and Sfi1c16.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A composition comprising the *S. thermophilus* bacterial strain of claim 28, wherein said composition comprises the bacterium together with a carrier, adjuvant or diluent.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 30, which is a starter culture or milk product.

Claim 32–33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (new): The bacterium according to claim 1 wherein said bacterium comprises a modified ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 35 (new): The bacterium according to claim 34 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophage in the bacterium.

Claim 36 (new): The composition according to claim 9 wherein said bacterium comprises a modified ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 37 (new): The composition according to claim 36 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophage in the bacterium.

Claim 38 (new): The starter culture according to claim 10 wherein said bacterium comprises a modified ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 39 (new): The starter culture according to claim 38 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophage in the bacterium.

Claim 40 (new): The milk product according to claim 21 wherein said bacterium comprises a modified ϕ Sfi21 prophage.

Claim 41 (new): The milk product according to claim 40 wherein the ϕ Sfi21 prophage is modified by deletion of sufficient DNA to disrupt expression of the prophage in the bacterium.